

RECKLESS RALPH'S
DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting preservation, and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers. Published by RALPH F. CUMMINGS, Box 75, Fisherville, Mass., U.S.A.

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NO. 74

NICK CARTER ? LET 'EM READ IT,
SAYS SCIENTIST.

Freedom to Choose Own Reading Urged For
Children.

(Sent in by William J. Bennors)

Young "Nick Carter" and "Deadeye Dick" addicts can now indulge their cravings in the open and be safe from the teacher's wrath....

If teachers take the advice of Dr. Edward L. Westburgh, director of the psychology department of Pennsylvania Hospital's Institute for Mental Hygiene.

Dr. Westburgh told the Philadelphia Association for Childhood Education at its recent meeting at Temple University, not to be concerned if pupils go in heavily for "trashy" literature.

Freedom Urged:

The pupil ought to be free to choose his reading material, he said. A teacher can do plenty of harm by descending on the pupil like a vice crusader, snatching away the offending dime novel, and sticking some classical literary work in his hands. That's about

the best way of instilling a hatred of good * literature, Dr. Westburgh said.

"I never learned to enjoy reading Shakespeare until 10 years after I left college," he remarked.

The teacher's job is to find good literature that can compete with the "trash" in interest for the pupil, he said.

That was only one of the points which Dr. Westburgh criticised in teaching procedures. Other highlights of his talk, were:

"What did you get?" The present system of periodic marks and report cards, develops a harmful competitive spirit among children, where the co-operative spirit ought to be stressed. The child doesn't need competition to stimulate effort.

Parent-Teacher Meetings: The fewer you have, the better. Such meetings frequently degenerate into confabs where the parent takes the part of the child and tries to solve his problems for him.

Promote 'em All: The liberal promotion plan in effect in Philadelphia and elsewhere, is supposed to help avoid inferiority feelings caused by flunking. But the child doesn't escape those feelings when he's promoted into grades where he can't do the work, and knows he can't. The system ought to permit the pupil to be promoted in one subject, left down in another.

Johnny won't learn: It often happens that a pupil, even a very intelligent one, may not be psychologically ready to learn subjects like reading and arithmetic, in the early grades. Teachers and parents become alarmed, scold the child, and help build up complexes. But the child will finally come around to learning--and there's no harm in the time lost. For psychologists have shown that a normal child, who begins to learn to read in the

fourth grade will be as skillful a reader ³
at the end of that year, as the one who had
been reading since the first grade.

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WILLIAM BENNER SAYS

An Odd Thing:

Bracebridge Homyng in "The Scapegrace of the School", or, "Dick Lightheart", made him 15 or 16 years old. The sequel, "Scapegrace at Sea" made him older, while, "The Scapegrace in London" found him still older. Then when Homyng came to America in 1883 or 84, he wrote "The Scapegrace Among the Indians" and made Dick only 15 years old, after going thru three previous serials and love adventures, etc., he becomes only 15 years old.

This serial ran in Frank Loslie's Boys of America. He was a very courageous and up-to-date chap in the red-skin serial, that ran a year. The publishers should have seen to Dick's age, or else let him go back to his early boyhood days.

Handsome Harry first appeared in the Family Story Paper, first appearance in the United States. Began in No. 135 and ended in No. 192 (57 numbers).

Col. E. Z. C. Judson's non de plumes were: Ned Buntline-Clew Garnet-Ed. Mintorn-Jules Edwards-Buffalo Bill-and Reckless Ralph.

COMFORT-RANDALL: Thursday, May 23rd, 1867 at Zion Church, by Rev. Samuel G. Apploton--John E. Comfort, M.D. of Sandy Hill, Washington County, to Lucy A. Randall.

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This is a REPRINT:

Among the advertisers in the original issue were the following:

W. M. BURNS had Happy Days, Nos. 337 to 389, inclusive, for exchange.

WM. J. BENNERS was looking for Flag of Our Union for 1866.

GEO.CORDIER wanted Wide Awake Lib.No.344-Boys Starr Lib.No.117-and Beadless Dime Lib.No.205.

A.W.JAFFREY wanted to trade Jack Harkaways for Pluck and Lucks.

FRISCO BURT and COL.CHAS RANDOLPH listed some wants, too.

OTHER ADVERTISERS were:

M.E.MARSH-J.P.GUINON-JAMES MADISON-S.B.CONDON-WM.J.BENNETT-RALPH F.CUMMINGS, the latter had a full-page ad on the Famous Pirate Series.

CHARLES H.AUSTIN had his A NO.1 For Sale List on a Full Page: Nickel Library-Wide Awake Library-English Edition Blue Dwarf-Beadle's Dime Library-Beadle's Half Dime Lib.-OLD SLEUTHS-Frank Reade-Tousey's 5¢ Weekly-Beadle's Dime Tales-Log Cabin Library-Army & Navy Library-Campfire Library-American Lib.-Saturday Library-DeWitt's ten cent Library-War Library-Beadle's 20¢ Editions-Beadle's Dime Novels-Beadle's Pocket Novels-Beadle's Boys Library-Beadle's Dime Biographical Lib.-Munro's Ten Cent Novels-Gleason's Pictorial-N.Y.Weekly-Saturday Nights-Flag of our Union-Fireside Companion-Beadle's Banners-N.Y.Lodger-Beadle's Weekly-

And a number of single editions:

The G'HOLS OF NEW YORK-THREE YEARS AFTER-CLARENCE BOLTON-SEA DRIFT-THE KING OF DIAMONDS-THE DIVORCED WIFE-and others.

It was quite a list.

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